



WEBSTER'S
Ninth New
Collegiate
Dictionary



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variola \ver-ē-ō-lā, var-, vā-ri-ō-lā n [NL, fr. ML, pustule, pox, fr. LL, pustule] (ca. 1771): any of several virus diseases (as smallpox or cowpox) marked by a pustular eruption

variometer \ver-ē-ām-ō-er, var-, vā-ri-ō-mē-ter n (ca. 1900) 1: an instrument for measuring magnetic declination 2: VARIOCOUPLER 3: an aeronautical instrument for indicating rate of climb

vari-orum \ver-ē-ō-r-um, var-, vā-ri-ō-r-um n [L *variorum* of various persons (gen. pl. masc. of *varius*), in the phrase *cum notis variorum* with the notes of various persons] (1728) 1: an edition or text with notes by different persons 2: an edition containing variant readings of the text **variorum** adj (1763): relating to or being a *variorum*; also: VARIANT (~ readings)

various \ver-ē-ās, var-, vā-ri-ūs adj [L *varius*; prob. akin to L *varus* bent, crooked] (1552) 1 *archaic*: VARIABLE, INCONSTANT 2: VARICOLORED (birds of ~ plumage) 3 a: of differing kinds: MULTIFARIOUS b: dissimilar in nature or form: UNLIKE (animals as ~ as the jaguar and the sloth) 4: having a number of different aspects or characteristics (a ~ place) (a ~ talent) 5: of an indefinite number greater than one (stop at ~ towns) 6: INDIVIDUAL, SEPARATE (rate increases granted in the ~ states) *syn* see DIFFERENT — **variousness** n

variously adv (1627) 1: in various ways: at various times (was ~ occupied teaching, farming, and clerking) 2: by various designations (known ~ as principal, headmaster, and rector)

varisized \ver-i-sīzd, var-, vā-ri-sīzd adj (1941): of various sizes

varistor \va-ris-tor, ve-, vā-ri-s-tor n [var- + resistor] (1943): an electrical resistor whose resistance depends on the applied voltage

varix \var-iks n, pl **varices** \var-i-sēz [L *varic*, *varix* — more at VARI-COSE] (15c) 1: an abnormally dilated and lengthened vein, artery, or lymph vessel; esp.: a varicose vein 2: one of the prominent ridges across each whorl of a gastropod shell

varlet \var-lēt n [ME, fr. MF *vaslet*, *varlet* young nobleman, page — more at VALET] (15c) 1 a: ATTENDANT, MENIAL b: a knight's page 2: a base unprincipled person: KNAVE

varlet-ry \la-trē n, *archaic* (1606): RABBLE

varmint \var-mənt n [alter. of *vermin*] (1539) 1: an animal or bird considered a pest; *specif*: an animal classed as vermin and unprotected by game law 2: a contemptible person: RASCAL; *broadly*: PERSON, FELLOW

varnish \var-nish n [ME *varnish*, fr. MF *vernix*, fr. Olt or ML: Olt *vernice*, fr. ML *veronic*, *veronix* sandarac (resin)] (14c) 1 a: a liquid preparation that when spread and allowed to dry on a surface forms a hard lustrous typically transparent coating b: the covering or glaze given by the application of varnish c: (1) something that suggests varnish by its gloss (2) a coating (as of deposits in an internal-combustion engine) comparable to varnish 2: outside show: GLOSS 3 chiefly Brit: a liquid nail polish — **varnishy** -ē adj

varnish vt (14c) 1: to apply varnish to 2: to cover or conceal (as something unpleasant) with something that gives a fair appearance

varnish n (1758): any of various trees yielding a milky juice from which in some cases varnish or lacquer is prepared; esp.: a Japanese sumac (*Rhus verniciflua*)

varsity \var-sē-tē, -stē n, pl **-ties** [by shortening & alter. fr. *university*] (1646) 1 Brit: UNIVERSITY 2 a: the principal squad representing a university, college, school, or club esp. in a sport b: REGULAR 1d

varuna \var-a-nā n [Skt *Varuna*] a chief Vedic god responsible for natural and moral order in the cosmos

varus \var-as, -er- n [NL, fr. L, bent, knock-kneed — more at VARI-COSE] (1800): a deformed position of a bodily part characterized by bending or turning inward toward the midline of the body to an abnormal degree (a moderate right metatarsus — *Jour. Amer. Med. Assoc.*) — **varus** adj

varve \varv n [Sw *varv* turn, layer; akin to OE *hweorfan* to turn — more at WHARF] (ca. 1922): a pair of layers of alternately finer and coarser silt or clay believed to comprise an annual cycle of deposition in a body of still water — **varved** \varvd adj

vary \və-ē, -ē, vā-ri-ē, vā-ri-ēd; **varying** [ME *varien*, fr. MF or L: *varier*, fr. L *variare*, fr. *varius* various] vt (14c) 1 a: to make a partial change in: make different in some attribute or characteristic b: to make differences between items in: DIVERSIFY 2: to present under new aspects (~ the rhythm and harmonic treatment) ~ vi 1: to exhibit or undergo change (the sky was constantly ~ing) 2: DEVIATE, DEPART 3: to take on successive values (~ varies inversely with x) 4: to exhibit divergence in structural or physiological characters from the typical form *syn* see CHANGE — **varying-ly** \-iŋ-lē adv

varying hare n (1781): any of several hares having white fur in winter; esp.: SNOWSHOE

vas \vas n, pl **vasa** \vā-zā [NL, fr. L, vessel] (1651): an anatomical vessel: DUCT — **vasal** \zāl adj

vaso- *comb form* [NL, fr. L *vas*] 1: vessel: as a: blood vessel (vasomotor) b: vas deferens (vasectomy) 2: vascular and (vasovagal) 3: vasomotor (vasoinhibitor)

vasa efferentia \vā-zā-ēf-ē-ā-ren-ch(ē)-ā n [NL, lit., efferent vessels] (ca. 1860): the 12 to 20 tubes that lead from the rete testis to the vas deferens and except near their commencement are greatly convoluted and form the compact head of the epididymis

vascular \vas-kyā-lər adj [NL *vascularis*, fr. L *vasculum* small vessel, dim. of *vas*] (1672) 1: of or relating to a channel for the conveyance of a body fluid (as blood of an animal or sap of a plant) or to a system of such channels; also: supplied with or made up of such channels and esp. blood vessels (a ~ tumor) (a ~ system) 2: marked by vigor and ardor: SPIRITED, PASSIONATE — **vascular-ity** \vas-kyā-lar-ō-tē n

vascular bundle n (ca. 1884): a unit of the vascular system of a higher plant consisting usu. of vessels and sieve tubes together with parenchyma cells and fibers

vascular cylinder n (ca. 1889): STELE

vas-cu-lar-iza-tion \vas-kyā-lā-rā-zā-shən n (1818): the process of becoming vascular; also: abnormal or excessive formation of blood vessels (as in the retina or on the cornea)

vascular plant n (1861): a plant having a specialized conducting system that includes xylem and phloem: TRACHEOPHYTE

vascular ray n (1672): a band of usu. parenchymatous cells partly in the xylem and partly in the phloem of a plant root or stem that conducts fluids radially and appears in a cross section like a spoke of a wheel

vascular tissue n (1815): plant tissue concerned mainly with conduction; esp.: the specialized tissue of higher plants consisting essentially of phloem and xylem and forming a continuous system throughout the body

vas-cu-la-ture \vas-kyā-lā-čū(ā)r-, -(t)ū(ā)r n [L *vasculum* vessel + *E-ature* (as in *musculature*)] (ca. 1927): the disposition or arrangement of blood vessels in an organ or part

vas-cu-litis \vas-kyā-lit-ās n, pl **-liti-des** \-lit-ā-dēz [NL, fr. L *vasculum* vessel] (ca. 1903): inflammation of a blood or lymph vessel

vas-cu-lum \vas-kyā-ləm n, pl **-la** \-lā [NL, fr. L, small vessel] (1844): a usu. metal and commonly cylindrical or flattened covered box used in collecting plants

vas deferens \vas-ˈdef-er-ens, -renz n, pl **vasa deferentia** \vā-zā-ˈdef-er-ēn-č(ē)-ā [NL, lit., deferent vessel] (ca. 1885): a spermatic duct esp. of a higher vertebrate forming in man a small thick-walled tube about two feet long greatly convoluted in its proximal portion

vase \US oftenest vās; *Canad usu & US also vāz; Brit usu, Canad also, & US sometimes vāz* n [F, fr. L *vas* vessel; akin to Umbrian *vasor* vessels] (1563): a usu. round vessel of greater depth than width used chiefly as an ornament or for holding flowers — **vase-like** \-lik adj

vas-ec-to-mize \vā-ˈsek-tā-mīz, vā-ˈzek- v- mīz-ēd; -mīz-ēng (1900): to perform a vasectomy on

vas-ec-to-my \-tā-mē n, pl **-mies** [ISV] (1899): surgical division or resection of all or part of the vas deferens usu. to induce permanent sterility

Vase-line \vas-ə-lēn, vas-ə- trademark — used for petrolatum

vas-o-active \vā-zō-ˈak-tiv adj (ca. 1921): affecting the blood vessels esp. in respect to the degree of their relaxation or contraction — **vas-o-active-ity** \-ak-tiv-ō-tē n

vas-o-con-stric-tion \kən-ˈstrik-shən n [ISV] (1899): narrowing of the lumen of blood vessels esp. as a result of vasomotor action

vas-o-con-stric-tive \-strik-tiv adj (1890): inducing vasoconstriction

vas-o-con-stric-tor \-tər n (1877): an agent (as a sympathetic nerve fiber or a drug) that induces or initiates vasoconstriction

vas-o-di-la-tion \di-lā-shən, -dā- or **vas-o-di-la-ta-tion** \-dil-ā-tā-shən, -di-lā- n [ISV] (1896): widening of the lumen of blood vessels

vas-o-di-la-tor \-lāt-ər n (1881): an agent (as a parasympathetic nerve fiber or a drug) that induces or initiates vasodilation

vas-o-mo-tor \vā-zā-ˈmōt-ər adj [ISV] (1865): of, relating to, or being nerves or centers controlling the size of blood vessels

vas-o-pres-sin \vā-zō-ˈpres-ēn n [fr. *Vasopressin*, a trademark] (1927): a polypeptide hormone secreted by the posterior lobe of the pituitary gland that increases blood pressure and decreases urine flow — called also **antidiuretic hormone**

vas-o-pres-sor \-ˈpres-ər adj (1928): causing a rise in blood pressure by exerting a vasoconstrictor effect — **vasopressor** n

vas-o-spasm \vā-zō-ˈspaz-əm n [ISV] (ca. 1909): sharp and often persistent contraction of a blood vessel reducing its caliber and blood flow — **vas-o-spas-tic** \vā-zō-ˈspas-tik adj

vas-o-to-cin \vā-zā-ˈtōs-ēn n [vaso- + *oxytocin*] (ca. 1963): a polypeptide pituitary hormone of most lower vertebrates that is held to have an antidiuretic function

vas-o-vag-al \vā-zō-ˈvā-gəl adj (ca. 1923): of, relating to, or involving both vascular and vagal factors

vas-sal \vas-əl n [ME, fr. MF, fr. ML *vassallus*, fr. *vassus* servant, vassal, of Celt origin; akin to W *gwas* boy, servant] (14c) 1: a person under the protection of a feudal lord to whom he has vowed homage and fealty: a feudal tenant 2: one in a subservient or subordinate position — **vassal** adj

vas-sal-age \-səl-ij n (1594) 1: the state of being a vassal 2: the homage, fealty, or services due from a vassal 3: a position of subordination or submission (as to a political power)

vast \vast adj [L *vastus*; akin to Olt *for* length] (1575): very great in size, amount, degree, intensity, or esp. in extent or range *syn* see ENORMOUS — **vast-ly** adv — **vast-ness** \vas(t)-nəs n

vast n (1604): a boundless space (the ~ of heaven — John Milton)

vas-ti-tude \vas-tā-(t)ijūd n [L *vasitudo*, fr. *vastus*] (1623): IMMENSITY, VASTNESS

vasty \vas-tē adj (1596): VAST (call spirits from the ~ deep — Shak.)

vāt \vat n [ME *fat*, *vat*, fr. OE *fāt*; akin to OHG *vaz* vessel, Lith *puodas* pot] (bef. 12c) 1: a large vessel (as a cistern, tub, or barrel) esp. for holding liquors in an immature state or preparations for dyeing or tanning 2: a liquor containing a dye converted into a soluble reduced colorless or weakly colored form that on textile material steeped in the liquor and exposed to the air is converted by oxidation to the original insoluble dye and precipitated in the fiber

vāt vt **vāt-ed**; **vāt-ting** (1784): to put into or treat in a vat

vāt n (ca. 1903): a water-insoluble generally fast dye used in the form of a vat liquor — called also **vāt color**

vāt-dyed \vat-ˈdīd adj (ca. 1947): dyed with one or more vat dyes

vatic \vat-ik adj [L *vates* seer, prophet; akin to OE *with* poetry, OHG *wuot* madness, Olt *fāth* seer, poet] (1603): PROPHETIC, ORACULAR

\ə/ about \ʌ/ kitten, F table \ər/ further \ə/ ash \ā/ ace \ā/ cot, cart \ā/ out \ch/ chin \e/ bet \ē/ easy \g/ go \i/ hit \ī/ ice \j/ job \j/ sing \ō/ go \ō/ law \ōi/ boy \th/ thin \th/ the \ū/ foot \ū/ foot \y/ yet \zh/ vision \ā, k, ˚, æ, ē, u, ē, ʷ/ see Guide to Pronunciation



varying hare: 1 winter coat; 2 summer coat